



Labor News Bits

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News & Information

New Jersey employment reaches new record, unemployment rate declines

August employment levels were at an all time high and the state's unemployment rate declined, said Commissioner Kevin P. McCabe of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) on September 17.

Preliminary estimates from LWD's monthly survey of employers indicates the number of persons on nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,700 in August to a new record level of 4,048,100. Employment has now grown for six straight months. The originally reported drop of 600 jobs from June to July was erased by an upward revision of 3,200, resulting in an over-the-month increase of 2,600 jobs. Since March 2003, the state has created nearly 90,000 jobs.

"We have been focusing on the investments the state has made and will make in its workforce, from training 100,000 workers, to protecting New Jersey jobs, to ensuring fair wages for a hard day's work," McCabe said. "These efforts are paying off, as there are more jobs here than ever before and the prospects of continued employment growth in New Jersey are strong."

New Jersey's unemploy-

ment rate fell from 5.0 percent in July to 4.8 percent in August. The jobless rate was below the U.S. rate for the sixteenth consecutive month; the national rate decreased from 5.5 percent in July to 5.4 percent in August. The New Jersey rate is 1.1 percentage points below its year ago level.

Commissioner McCabe opens One-Stop Career Center in Jersey City

On September 20, Kevin P. McCabe, Department of Labor and Workforce Development commissioner, further progressed consolidating all LWD workforce development programs. McCabe officially opened Jersey City's career development and job-training center.

McCabe, joined by state, county, and local officials, said, "Today is a great day for Jersey City because we're investing in the right things: improving the skills of our working men and women. Our goal is to create the most highly trained, highly skilled, and best educated workforce in the nation. The opening of this facility is further proof that that goal is becoming a reality."

The new facility, located at 438 Summit Avenue in Jersey City, will house staff from the Hudson County Workforce Investment Board, the Depart-

ment of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Jersey City Employment and Training Corporation.

Governor McGreevey signs law expanding New Jersey's Prevailing Wage Act

Governor James E. McGreevey took another step forward for New Jersey's working families on August 23, by enacting legislation that will expand New Jersey's prevailing wage law to include all construction projects awarded by certain state authorities.

"We have built a solid reputation for New Jersey as a state that protects its workers. Our prior successes include recovering \$25.7 million in wages that were unfairly held back due to violations of wage and hour laws; and our status as first state in the nation to sign project labor agreement legislation," Governor McGreevey said.

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Kevin P. McCabe
Commissioner

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